Project Summary

The Pit Resource Conservation District (Pit RCD) proposes a planning and development project to address restoration and fuels management needs at McBride Springs, a degraded wet meadow/fen ecosystem that is part of the headwaters of Willow Creek, a tributary to the Pit River. Total project area is approximately 400 acres. Exact area of disturbance for eventual project implementation will be identified under the proposed study, but will likely be a much smaller area.

The Pit RCD, in cooperation with the Parks Ranch and Modoc National Forest, proposes a comprehensive fuels treatment and stream/wetland/fen restoration strategy for the project area, as identified in the Pit RCD Watershed Management Strategy. The Park Ranch and Modoc NF are project supporters and will contribute in-kind services to the project.

The dominant feature of the project site is a dehydrated middle-elevation meadow/fen. Historically, this ecosystem featured saturated hydric meadow soils and fen-like mats of floating vegetation. Channel degradation has effectively drained the meadow. Because recovery of fen ecosystems has not yet been widely practiced in the Pit River watershed, a more detailed study of the site is needed to ensure that a feasible and effective restoration strategy is designed. Other degraded wet meadow/fen systems are known to occur in the watershed, and successful design and ultimate restoration of this proposed project may be useful for future projects.

The proposed project will deliver all steps necessary for completion of a project design that is ready for implementation, including environmental assessment, stakeholder coordination, design details, monitoring methods, CEQA/NEPA and permitting.

The proposed project will directly address four SNC program goals: Working landscapes, public lands, regional economic support, and water quality. It will indirectly address other SNC goals: Disaster mitigation (through fuels treatment and meadow rehydration), and Recreation and Tourism (improve visuals on Hwy 139). The proposed project will contribute to the conservation of living resources through restoration of an uncommon ecosystem (a fen) as well as important aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitats.

Budget: Personnel $ 2,000, Operating Expenses (permit fees, publication costs, etc.) $ 6,100, Contract Services $24,500; Total sum requested: $33,100. In-kind and matching funds: $19,200; Total Project Value: $ 52,300.